

Cornell Microsoft International Symposium on Self-Organizing Online Communities

March 28 – 31, 2007
423 ILR Conference Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

This three-day international workshop (with kickoff dinner and lecture on March 28), co-sponsored by Microsoft Research, will focus on communities in cyberspace, and in particular, on the dynamics of self-organization within these communities. We will engage several related themes: theories of online community dynamics, facilitation of participation and contribution to online community, the dynamics of interaction, methods and data, and implications for the future of online community and research. The rapid growth of on-line communities (such as news groups, blogs, and wikis), opens up unprecedented possibilities to observe the recruitment process in real time, including the network structures through which it is mediated. These communities also represent research sites for the study of on-line governance and the emergence of norms and institutions. Accordingly, the workshop examines the new research opportunities for studying social interactions that leave a digital trace. To that end, the workshop introduces participants to a wide range of online data sources, including a reconfigured relational database derived from the Internet Archive and hosted at Cornell as part of the NSF's Next Generation Cyberinfrastructure Program.

Organized by the following members of the Network Theme Project of the Institute for the Social Sciences at Cornell University:

Geri Gay (Symposium Organizer)
Ted Welser (Symposium Organizer)
Michael W. Macy (Team Leader)
John Abowd
Larry Blume
David Easley
Dan Huttenlocher
Jon Kleinberg
Kathleen O'Connor
Jeffrey Prince
David Strang
Mary Still

Wednesday March 28th, 2007, Taylor Room

6:00 – 9:00 Kick off Events

- 6:00 – 7:00 Wine and Cheese in the Rowe Room at the Statler Hotel
- 7:00 – 9:00 Dinner in the Taylor Room at the Statler Hotel
 Keynote: *Can the Social Sciences Aspire to Meteorology? Digital Traces and the Prospects for a Natural Social Science*, Marc Smith, Microsoft Research, Community Technologies

Thursday, March 29th, 2007, 423 ILR Conference Center

8:30 – 9:15 Breakfast and Welcome

- 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 – 9:15 *Welcome and Introduction to the Symposium*, Elizabeth Mannix, Director of the Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University

9:15 – 11:15 Theory and Facilitation

Session Chair: Michael Macy, Cornell University

9:15 – 9:30 *Thematic Introduction*, Michael Macy

Papers:

9:30 – 9:55 *The Networked Household*, Barry Wellman, University of Toronto

9:55 – 10:20 *MTML meets Web 2.0: Theorizing social processes in multidimensional networks*, Nosh Contractor, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

10:20 – 10:45 *The Evolution of On-Line Community Networks*, Peter Monge, University of Southern California

Discussion:

10:45 – 11:00 Discussant, Paul DiMaggio, Princeton University

11:00 – 11:30 Group discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 2:30 Theory and Facilitation

Session Chair: David Easley, Cornell University

12:30 – 12:45 *Thematic Introduction*

12:45 – 1:15 *Conversation & Commitment in Online Communities*, Bob Kraut, Carnegie Mellon University

1:15 – 1:40 *Is What Software Producers Have In Common That They Pay Too Little Attention to Sociologists?*, Bryan Kirschner, Open Source Software Lab, Microsoft

Discussion:

1:40 – 1:55 Discussant: Kathleen O'Connor, Cornell University

2:00 – 2:30 Group Discussion

2:30 – 2:45 Break, Coffee, Snacks

2:45 – 4:55 Facilitation and Contribution

Session Chair: Larry Blume

2:45 – 3:00 *Thematic Introduction*, Larry Blume, Cornell University

Papers:

3:00 – 3:25 *Voluntary Associations: Community, Contribution and Rights*, Jeff Ubois, Internet Archive/UC Berkeley

3:25 – 3:50 *Manipulation-Resistant Reputation Systems*, Paul Resnick, University of Michigan

3:50 – 4:10 *Producing Online Information Pools: The Effects of Social Psychological Incentives on Contribution*, Coye Cheshire, UC Berkeley

Discussion:

4:10 – 4:25 Discussant: David Strang, Cornell University

4:25 – 4:55 Group

4:55 Break; Dinner on your own

Thursday Evening, 146 Myron Taylor Hall**8:30 – 11:30 pm Special Seminar in Applied Probability and Social Psychology**

Session Organizer: Ted Welser, ISS office 607-255-3304 ; cell 206-818-2935

The ISS conference room will be set for socializing, refreshments and a friendly game of Texas hold-em poker. A small seminar fee (\$10) will be collected and redistributed as an 'honorarium' to seminar finalists.

NOTE: Please arrive between 8:30 and 9:00. Because Myron Taylor is an academic building external doors may be locked in the evening. Call the contact numbers above and someone will come to let you in.

Friday, March 30, 2007, 423 ILR Conference Center

8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 – 10:45 Methods

Session Chair: Dan Huttenlocher, Cornell University

8:30 – 8:45 *Thematic Introduction*, Dan Huttenlocher

Papers:

8:45 – 9:10 *Expertise Networks in Online Communities: Structure and Algorithms*, Lada Adamic, University of Michigan

9:10 – 9:35 *Integration and Exclusion – A Network Analysis of Wikipedia Discussions*, Elisabeth Bauer, Frankfurt University

9:35 – 10:00 *Many Eyes: A Site for Social Data Analysis*, Fernanda Viegas, IBM Visual Communication Lab

Discussion:

10:00 – 10:15 Discussant: John Abowd, Cornell University

10:15 – 10:45 Group

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:15 – 1:30 Interaction

Session Chair: Geri Gay, Cornell University

11:00 – 11:15 *Thematic Introduction*, Geri Gay

Papers:

11:15 – 11:40 *Challenges in the Qualitative Study of Online Communities*, Nancy Baym, University of Kansas

11:40 – 12:05 *Visualizing Speech*, Karrie Karahalios, University of Illinois

12:05 – 12:30 *Self Perception in Online Interaction*, Andrew Fiore, UC Berkeley

Discussion:

12:30 – 12:45 Discussant: Trevor Pinch, Cornell University

12:45 – 1:15 Group

1:15 - 2:15 Lunch

2:15 – 4:15 New Data and Research Opportunities

Special Panel Discussion: New Data and Research Opportunities

All attendees are invited to share information about new data and research opportunities. The panel discussion will include descriptions of data, research opportunities, and work in progress with new data.

Participants:

Sony, Everquest II, Second Life; Noshir Contractor, University of Illinois
Second Life, WoW, others; Katherine Milton, Ohio University
Yahoo, Flickr, others; Ravi Kumar, Yahoo Research
Group Lens, Wikipedia; Dan Cosley, Cornell University
Wikipedia, Internet Archive, Gueorgi Kossinets, Cornell University

4:15 Break

7:00 – 9:00 Dinner at Madelines

Ithaca Airline Limo Shuttle bus will pick up at Statler Lobby at 6:40 to take people to restaurant. Shuttle will then pick up at Madelines Restaurant at 9:15 to return people to the Statler.

Saturday, March 31, 2007, 423 ILR Conference Center

8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 – 10:30 Implications

Special Panel: Theory and Methods in Large Scale Analysis of Online Communities

8:30 – 9:00 Session Chair and Introduction: Jon Kleinberg, Cornell University

9:00 – 10:45 Panel and Discussion

Panelists:

Ravi Kumar, Yahoo Research

Andrew Tomkins, Yahoo Research

Cameron Marlow, Yahoo Research

Discussants:

Lada Adamic, University of Michigan

Jon Kleinberg, Cornell University

Marc Smith, Microsoft Research, Community Technologies

Eva Tardos, Cornell University

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:15 Implications for Future Research; Wrap up and Summary Group Discussion

11:00 – 12:15 Wrap-up discussion lead by thematic speakers:

Michael Macy

Larry Blume

Geri Gay

David Easley

John Abowd

Dan Huttenlocher

Jon Kleinberg

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch